(b) whether it is a fact that in most Western Cities, our consulates grant visas the same day;

(c) whether receipt of visa applications has been outsourced in some cities abroad; and

(d) how does Government ensure that the tourists are getting good service?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, at present, Ministry of Home Affairs has not agreed to the proposal regarding Visa-on-Arrival scheme due to the prevalent security scenario.

(b) Indian Missions abroad including those in Western cities grant visas expeditiously in keeping with the relevant norms. Visas are granted on the same day or the next day of the receipt of application except in the case of applications which require prior approval of the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present 24 Missions/Posts have already started outsourcing of collection of visa application forms.

(d) Tourists intending to visit India are provided prompt and courteous services when they visit Indian Missions/Posts abroad for seeking Indian visas.

Entry tickets for monuments

1999. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is maintaining two tier entry fee for ticketed monuments for foreign and domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the case of Indian tourists when they visit foreign countries;

(c) whether the two tier entry fee is causing disrespect to India as a tourist destination; and

(d) whether Government is considering to evolve mechanism to do away with the existing practice of two tier entry fee for all foreign as well as domestic tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The rates of entry fee charged by the Archaeological Survey of India at its ticketed monuments are as under:

	Ticketed World Heritage Monuments	Other ticketed monuments
(i) Citizens of India, SAARC and BIMSTEC countries	Rs.10/-per head	Rs.5/-per head
(ii) Others	Rs. 250/-per head	Rs. 100/-per head

(b) Data/information regarding rates of entry fee to monuments in foreign countries is not maintained by Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.